



# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The unemployment rate of the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area increased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 2.3 percent as seen in East Central Idaho Table 1. While the number of unemployed rose by almost 300, mostly due to declines in construction-related and tourism-related jobs, the civilian labor force grew by almost 400. Year-over-year, the rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point while the civilian labor force showed an increase of 1,050. Keeping the rate low were more service sector jobs, mostly in retail stores, wholesale facilities, health care and local government. Many of these jobs are a response to population growth. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the area, posted a 2.5 percent unemployment rate, unchanged from the previous month and down two-tenths of a percentage point from the same time last year.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- The new Olive Garden in Idaho Falls opens in early December for dinner and Dec. 11 for both lunch and dinner. Manager James Grider has 18 years of restaurant experience, more than six with Olive Garden. The Idaho Falls Olive Garden employs over 150 workers and seats almost 250 people. Designed as a Tuscan farmhouse, the restaurant offers a new menu revamped this summer. Darden Restaurants Inc. now has nearly 600 Olive Gardens employing over 70,000 people.
- Nick Free recently opened Nick's Reptile Haven in Idaho Falls. Since Free could not give up his hobby of rescuing abandoned reptiles and finding them good homes, he decided to make some money at what he loves. He now has more than 100 reptiles for sale including alligators, pythons and geckos. The store is open Monday through Saturday.

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Sep 2006*	Aug 2006	Sep 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	60,940	60,560	59,890	0.6	1.8
Unemployment	1,430	1,340	1,520	6.7	-5.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3%	2.2%	2.5%		
Total Employment	59,520	59,230	58,370	0.5	2.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,570	61,970	60,310	-0.6	2.1
Unemployment	1,420	1,470	1,520	-3.4	-6.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3%	2.4%	2.5%		
Total Employment	60,150	60,500	58,790	-0.6	2.3
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	54,910	54,790	53,170	0.2	3.3
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	7,810	7,940	7,420	-1.6	5.3
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	70	0.0	-85.7
Construction	4,520	4,630	4,150	-2.4	8.9
Manufacturing	3,280	3,300	3,190	-0.6	2.8
Food Manufacturing	920	930	930	-1.1	-1.1
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	260	270	230	-3.7	13.0
Machinery Manufacturing	170	160	160	6.3	6.3
Other Manufacturing	1,930	1,940	1,870	-0.5	3.2
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	47,100	46,850	45,750	0.5	3.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,610	13,680	13,060	-0.5	4.2
Wholesale Trade	4,270	4,330	4,050	-1.4	5.4
Retail Trade	7,600	7,630	7,340	-0.4	3.5
Utilities	60	70	60	-14.3	0.0
Transportation	1,680	1,650	1,610	1.8	4.3
Information	1,200	1,210	1,010	-0.8	18.8
Financial Activities	2,120	2,140	2,110	-0.9	0.5
Professional & Business Services	9,640	9,710	9,610	-0.7	0.3
Educational & Health Services	7,150	7,120	6,810	0.4	5.0
Leisure & Hospitality	4,570	4,740	4,500	-3.6	1.6
Other Services	2,010	2,060	1,970	-2.4	2.0
Government Education	3,160	2,620	3,300	20.6	-4.2
Government Administration	3,640	3,570	3,380	2.0	7.7

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

- Kathy's Hallmark is closing in Idaho Falls this January so that Ivan and Kathryn Burden can retire. They started their business almost 50 years ago as B&B Drug, but sold the pharmacy in 1979. They have concentrated on the gift business since then.
- Yummy's, a downtown Idaho Falls restaurant for 20 years has closed. The building was sold and will be converted into office space. However, Yummy's will still make food out of a location on Second Street and run its catering truck.

- Anna's Pantry, a home kitchen supply store, just opened in downtown Idaho Falls in the location of the former Paper Bag Princess. Owner Chris Miller carries brand-name kitchenware such as Xliss, Progressive and Emil Henry. She also has a great selection of candles and gifts — just in time for the holidays.
- Elite Entertainment, a modeling and talent agency, moved from central Idaho Falls to Ammon's Eagle Pines Plaza. The owners have experience with clients such as ABC, NBC, CBS, Disney, Warner Brothers, Fox and LDS Casting and help find people for auditions and other venues to display their talents.
- Westgate Drug recently opened in Idaho Falls. It is owned by Corey and Drew Smith, sons of Eastgate Drug founder Doug Smith. In addition to drugs, the store offers a large selection of religious and secular art and home medical supplies and equipment.

#### Fremont County

- The St. Anthony City Council voted to transform 11 acres of unused gravel pits along U.S. Highway 20 into a sports complex that will include fields for soccer, baseball and other activities. Once started, the complex will take five years to complete. The site needs at least a foot of topsoil and a sprinkler system for starters. The total cost has yet to be determined. Private donors have already contributed \$8,000. The South Fremont Youth Soccer Association has over 400 enrolled in soccer and has offered labor to prepare the fields on top of the \$2,000 it has already donated.

- The Independent Order of Odd Fellows recently sold its St. Anthony building to Paul Allen, owner of Falls Drug, which is on the ground floor of the building. He has no plans yet for the second story where the Odd Fellows met. Declining membership prompted sale of the building. The Odd Fellows once claimed 70 members but now have fewer than the number needed to hold meetings.

#### Madison County

- A new craft store opened in Rexburg. Scrap-A-Doodle, run by Angelique and Robert Smith, offers craft items, especially for scrapbooks. It offers beginning scrapbook classes on Thursday nights.
- A new newspaper is hitting the streets in Rexburg. The Voice has been in circulation for a month. Independently operated and funded by three Brigham Young University-Idaho students, the paper emphasizes so-called soft news and stories interesting to students. It has no distribution racks on campus so the university is not involved in any way. The free publication is financed through advertising. The paper is designed to literally be a voice for the students, and freelance writing is accepted. The creators of the full-color, bimonthly paper hope others will keep it running after they graduate and are preparing a manual for their successors.

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### Education & Training Pay Poster Released

Posters comparing level of pay with level of training are available free from Idaho Commerce & Labor. An 8 1/2" x 11" size can be downloaded and printed from the Web site in PDF format. Just log onto <http://lmi.idaho.gov> and scroll down the home page until you see the poster (pictured on the right) in color. Follow the information on-screen to print the poster.

A larger size, 11" x 17", is also available upon request. The posters have been popular with schools and other career counseling agencies. Log on to the Web site for more information.